

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Claims 1, 6 and 8 have been amended and claims 15-17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1, 3, 6, 8 and 14 are pending, with Claims 1, 6 and 8 being independent claims and Claims 3 and 14 being dependent claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1, 3 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to tie the method to another statutory category, e.g. an information processing apparatus, thereby overcoming this rejection. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 3 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Decker (U.S. Patent No. 6,281,984 B1) in view of Krabbenhöft (U.S. Patent No. 6,775,030 B2). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner concedes that Decker does not disclose “determining, when the black-printing compensation is not applied or when the black-printing compensation is applied and the input color data does not indicate the simple black color, output color data by using the source profile and the destination profile without using the determined relationship between lightness levels and black color”. The Examiner states that Krabbenhöft suggests these recitations and asserts that it would have been obvious to modify Decker with the alleged suggestions of Krabbenhöft.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite, in part, an information processing method performed by an information processing apparatus including a processor, for converting input color data including a plurality of color component data and black component data into output color data including a

plurality of color component data and black component data, the input color data being dependent on a source device and the output color data being dependent on a destination device, the information processing method comprising:

obtaining a source profile corresponding to the source device and a destination profile corresponding to the destination device, wherein the destination profile includes a first color conversion from a device dependent color space into a device-independent color space and a second color conversion from a device-independent color space into a device dependent color space;

determining a relationship between lightness levels and black color based on the first color conversion of the destination profile;

determining, by the processor, when a black-printing compensation is applied and the input color data indicates a simple black color, output color data for the simple black color having a lightness level equivalent to a lightness level of the input color data, based on the source profile and the determined relationship between lightness levels and black color; and

determining, when the black-printing compensation is not applied or when the black-printing compensation is applied and the input color does not indicate the simple black color, output color data by using the source profile and the second color conversion of the destination profile without using the determined relationship between lightness levels and black color,

wherein a value of plurality of color component data included in the input color data determined as the simple black color is 0.

Independent Claims 6 and 8 have also been amended in a similar manner.

Paragraph [0011] of the present application discloses the following problem: "If the black-printing generation characteristic is fixed, a combination of CMY value and the K value can be uniquely determined for the XYZ value. However, when converting CMYK values into CMYK values, even if the combination of the input CMY values and K value is changed, such a change cannot be reflected in the resulting output data since the black-printing generation characteristic is fixed."

Due to the above problem, the present application discloses performing different processing depending on an occasion “when a black-printing compensation is applied and the input color data indicates a simple black color” (hereinafter referred to as Occasion 1) and on another occasion “when the black-printing compensation is not applied or when the black-printing compensation is applied and the input color data does not indicate the simple black color” (hereinafter referred to as Occasion 2).

In order to perform the different processing depending on occurrence of Occasion 1 or Occasion 2, the claims recite, in part:

“obtaining a source profile corresponding to the source device and a destination profile corresponding to the destination device, wherein the destination profile includes a first color conversion from a device dependent color space into a device-independent color space and a second color conversion from a device-independent color space into a device dependent color space”.

The different processing depending on occurrence of Occasion 1 or Occasion 2 is recited in the claims as follows:

“determining, by the processor, when a black-printing compensation is applied and the input color data indicates a simple black color, output color data for the simple black color having a lightness level equivalent to a lightness level of the input color data, based on the source profile and the determined relationship between lightness levels and black color” (hereinafter referred to as Feature 1); and

“determining, by the processor, when the black-printing compensation is not applied or when the black-printing compensation is applied and the input color data does not indicate the simple black color, output color data by using the source profile and the second color conversion of the destination profile without using the determined relationship between lightness levels and black color” (hereinafter referred to as Feature 2).

Decker does not teach performing Feature 1 and Feature 2 depending on occurrence of the above Occasion 1 and Occasion 2. In contrast, Decker merely

teaches that one conversion table (CMYK to C'M'Y'K') is generated. That is, the conversion based on the conversion table is one process.

Therefore, Decker fails to disclose or reasonably suggest the recitations of independent Claims 1, 6 and 8.

Krabbenhöft fails to supplement the deficiencies of Decker because Krabbenhöft discloses outputting color data for a simple black color having a lightness level equivalent to a lightness level of an input color data, based on a source profile and a determined relationship between lightness levels and black color. However, Krabbenhöft also merely teaches that one conversion table (CMYK to C'M'Y'K') is generated. That is, the conversion based on the conversion table is one process. Thus, Krabbenhöft does not teach performing Feature 1 and Feature 2, as recited in the claims, depending on occurrence of the above-described Occasion 1 or Occasion 2.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 6 and 8 are allowable over Decker, Krabbenhöft, or any combination thereof. Dependent Claims 3 and 14 are allowable because they each depend from an allowable claim and because they also define an additional aspect of the present application.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 3, 6, 8 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Decker in view of Krabbenhöft.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims pending in the application meet the requirements for patentability and respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate the allowance of such claims.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 502456.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner may contact
Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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